SUBJECTS.

The Member then said that it might be argued that the Government wanted time to effect repairs to the channels and that he was prepared to grant that.

Dewan:—Not only that. The idea has always been that the water of Pechipara was intended to *supplement* rain.

The Member replied that he took objection to that view on two grounds, (1) that the Government had encouraged people to convert all the gardens into the paddy lands, and (2) that if the water in the Reservoir was not sufficient for the existing cultivation, the water should not be given to the new Erattakara Kaul. In his opinion, the Pechipara project itself was useless without rain.

Dewan:—If there is not a sufficient quantity of rainfall in one year, the water in the Reservior will not be sufficient for that year unless the Reservoir is enlarged. This is under consideration.

The Member continued and said that he wanted water to *start* cultivation only when there was enough water in the Reservoir, and that if there was not enough water the ryots were prepared to risk it. As for the time required to repair the channels, the Member said that it could be finished in two months, especially when labour was available after the Kumbhom harvest. They were prepared to undertake the repairs if the P. W. D. paid the cost.

Dewan:—You would not know where the repairs are needed.

The Member said that the advantages to the people by opening the channels on the 15th Medom were very great. If the 15th Vycasy be the opening period, the people would lose immensely. He also proposed that the sale of tank beds should be discontinued, in view to the circumstance that, if they were converted into paddy lands, the water available would not suffice for all the lands. As regards the distribution of water, the Member said that, on mature consideration, he thought that it was better to leave the present practice alone, but he wished that the Irrigation Officers were more sympathetic towards the ryots.

The distribution of water should be under the control of the Tahsildars.

Mr. Sivasubramania Pillai (Member, Eraniel Taluk) said that he fully supported the views of the previous speaker and that he had nothing more to add.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

42. The Government should establish Agricultural Banks in the State to supplement the work done by the Agricultural Department.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi, B. A. & B. L. (Member Quilon taluk) said that the Agricultural Loans Act as it stood did not apply to persons who were engaged in the cultivation

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